



Head Start Program Facts

Fiscal Year 2015

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Since its inception, Head Start has served more than 33 million children, birth to age 5, and their families. In 2015, Head Start was funded to serve nearly one million children and pregnant women in centers, family homes, and in family child care homes in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the nation.

[\(More on Head Start\)](#)

Throughout this fact sheet, unless otherwise specified, the term "Head Start" refers to the Head Start program as a whole, including: Head Start services to preschool children; Early Head Start (EHS) services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant women; services to families by American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) programs; and services to families by Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs.

The term "funded enrollment" refers to the number of children and pregnant women that are supported by federal Head Start funds in a program at any one time during the program year; these are sometimes referred to as enrollment slots. Funded enrollment numbers include enrollment slots funded by state or other funds when used by grantees as required nonfederal match. States may provide additional funding to local Head Start programs, which is not included in federal Head Start reporting.

The term "cumulative enrollment" refers to the actual number of children and pregnant women that Head Start programs serve throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year and the enrollees who filled those empty places. Due to turnover, more children and families may receive Head Start services cumulatively throughout the program year, all of whom are reported in the Program Information Report (PIR), than indicated by the funded enrollment numbers.

Federal Funding

The Congress of the United States authorizes the amount of federal spending for Head Start each year. The Head Start program is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Federal grants are awarded directly to public agencies, private nonprofit and for-profit organizations, tribal governments, and school systems for the purpose of operating Head Start programs in local communities.

Head Start Federal Funding	
Local Head Start Projects	Appropriation
States and Territories	\$7,233,541,000
American Indian and Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Programs	\$554,883,000
Subtotal	\$7,788,424,000

Support Activities	
Training and Technical Assistance	\$203,322,000
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$20,000,000
Monitoring Support	\$42,000,000
Program Support	\$19,349,000
Transition Funding for Designation Renewal System (DRS) ¹	\$25,000,000
Subtotal	\$309,671,000
Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships ²	\$500,000,000
TOTAL	\$8,598,095,000
¹ The Transition Funding for Designation Renewal System refers to funds available to minimize any disruption in services when there is a change in provider as a result of the DRS.	
² The FY 2015 appropriation continued to include the \$500 million initially appropriated in FY 2014 to expand access to high-quality early learning and development opportunities for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships. Funds were to be obligated by March 31, 2016.	

Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State

The Head Start program serves children, families, and pregnant women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories. The table in this section presents the total allocations and funded enrollment of Head Start programs in each state and territory.

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) funding is awarded to AIAN tribal governments. AIAN programs operate in 26 states, and in some cases their services cross state lines. Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) funding and funded enrollment are shown as one total, as this program supports children and families who receive services in various states during the year. Thus, federal funding and funded enrollment for these services cannot simply be attributed to individual states.

Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State

STATE/TERRITORY	FEDERAL FUNDING by State/Territory	FUNDED ENROLLMENT by State/Territory	FEDERAL FUNDING for AIAN ¹	FUNDED ENROLLMENT for AIAN ¹
Alabama	\$133,689,882	17,532		
Alaska	\$14,697,027	1,593	\$23,934,206	1,805
Arizona	\$131,546,248	14,413	\$39,984,763	3,905
Arkansas	\$81,496,636	10,273		
California	\$1,039,415,453	102,728	\$10,360,137	799
Colorado	\$88,256,495	10,945	\$2,339,603	191
Connecticut	\$67,254,862	6,495		
Delaware	\$16,305,939	2,281		

STATE/TERRITORY	FEDERAL FUNDING by State/Territory	FUNDED ENROLLMENT by State/Territory	FEDERAL FUNDING for AIAN ¹	FUNDED ENROLLMENT for AIAN ¹
District of Columbia	\$28,020,388	3,306		
Florida	\$345,209,484	39,668		
Georgia	\$217,928,237	25,205		
Hawaii	\$27,260,269	3,217		
Idaho	\$27,906,313	3,182	\$3,592,085	319
Illinois	\$336,043,938	41,188		
Indiana	\$123,000,650	15,310		
Iowa	\$62,633,575	7,756		
Kansas	\$62,945,976	8,356	\$1,090,092	84
Kentucky	\$136,136,445	16,961		
Louisiana	\$174,153,534	21,655		
Maine	\$33,851,143	3,243	\$756,007	60
Maryland	\$94,632,101	10,426		
Massachusetts	\$130,475,615	12,627		
Michigan	\$284,964,075	32,662	\$6,985,596	596
Minnesota	\$91,473,725	11,459	\$11,066,632	964
Mississippi	\$195,189,104	26,474	\$2,245,204	268
Missouri	\$150,433,720	16,919		
Montana	\$26,537,570	3,193	\$17,322,460	1,790
Nebraska	\$46,654,413	5,334	\$3,150,851	298
Nevada	\$33,442,154	3,128	\$3,560,844	362
New Hampshire	\$16,527,565	1,686		
New Jersey	\$156,887,641	16,021		
New Mexico	\$65,502,509	7,851	\$17,065,046	1,713
New York	\$527,069,097	50,987	\$1,308,751	143
North Carolina	\$190,807,543	21,800	\$2,820,606	230
North Dakota	\$21,282,228	2,442	\$10,097,931	1,000
Ohio	\$309,427,962	37,128		
Oklahoma	\$107,630,356	14,641	\$26,710,382	2,960
Oregon	\$78,684,207	13,149	\$3,682,046	400
Pennsylvania	\$286,559,676	36,605		
Rhode Island	\$27,335,605	2,893		
South Carolina	\$110,668,372	13,464	\$942,768	80
South Dakota	\$22,844,310	2,912	\$17,811,965	1,778
Tennessee	\$148,440,179	17,750		
Texas	\$604,774,593	73,202	\$439,996	34
Utah	\$51,029,723	6,343	\$1,887,754	215
Vermont	\$16,536,670	1,503		

STATE/TERRITORY	FEDERAL FUNDING by State/Territory	FUNDED ENROLLMENT by State/Territory	FEDERAL FUNDING for AIAN ¹	FUNDED ENROLLMENT for AIAN ¹
Virginia	\$124,211,408	14,427		
Washington	\$129,467,147	12,370	\$14,842,230	1,439
West Virginia	\$62,577,957	8,138		
Wisconsin	\$114,647,779	14,557	\$10,479,629	1,032
Wyoming	\$14,479,234	1,724	\$2,830,274	295
<i>Subtotal States:</i>	<i>\$7,388,946,732</i>	<i>849,122</i>		
<i>Subtotal Indian Tribes:</i>			<i>\$237,307,858</i>	<i>22,760</i>
MSHS	\$353,751,876	32,101		
American Samoa	\$2,317,881	1,332		
Guam	\$2,537,054	534		
No. Marianas	\$2,714,247	542		
Palau	\$1,437,508	400		
Puerto Rico	\$286,890,161	36,776		
Virgin Islands	\$9,641,053	1,014		
TOTAL	\$8,285,544,370	944,581		

¹AIAN funding is awarded to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. For reference, the funding and enrollment has been split out by the state in which the Tribe is headquartered. Some Tribes serve children across state lines.

Program Year Statistics

Each year, Head Start programs are required to submit PIRs on the services they have provided to children and families throughout the program year, including child, family, and staff demographics and program characteristics.

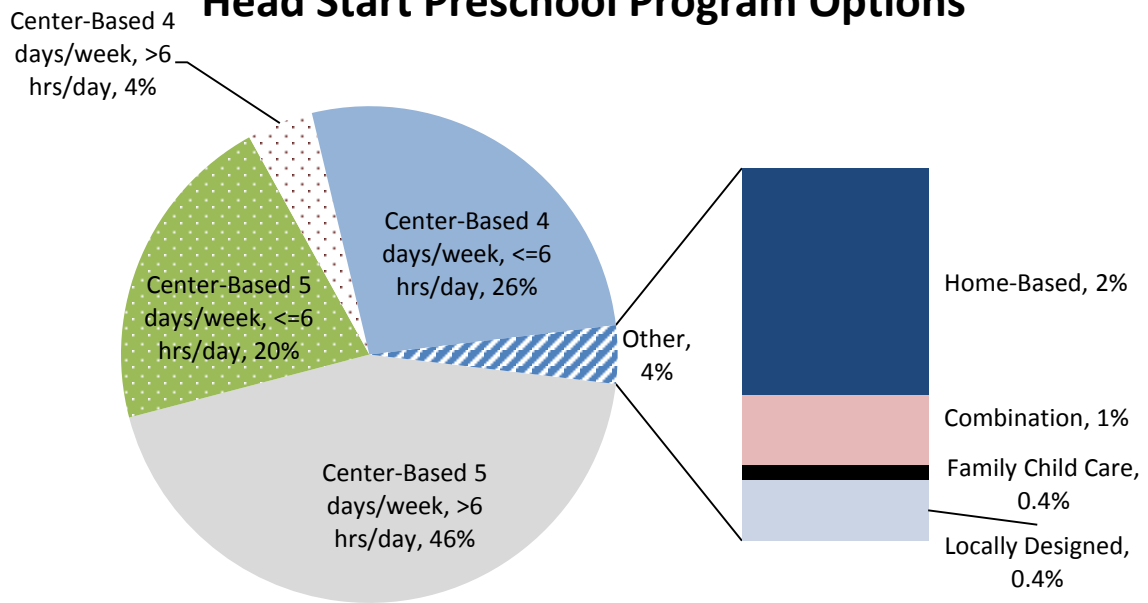
For a copy of the PIR form, detailed reports, data sets for the 2015 PIR and prior years, and for further information, please visit <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/pir>.

Program Characteristics

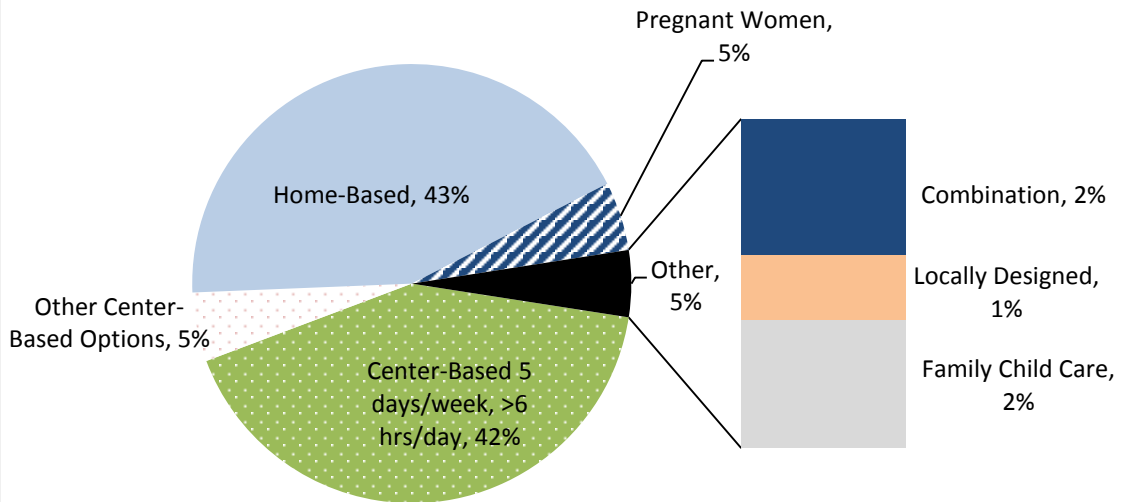
- Forty-one percent of grantees operated Head Start preschool services only
- Fourteen percent of grantees operated EHS services only
- Forty-five percent of grantees operated both Head Start and Early Head Start services

Most Head Start preschool services were provided in center-based settings that, based on local design, vary in the number of days per week and hours per day classes are in session. About half of EHS services were provided in center-based settings, and half were offered in home-based program settings.

Head Start Preschool Program Options

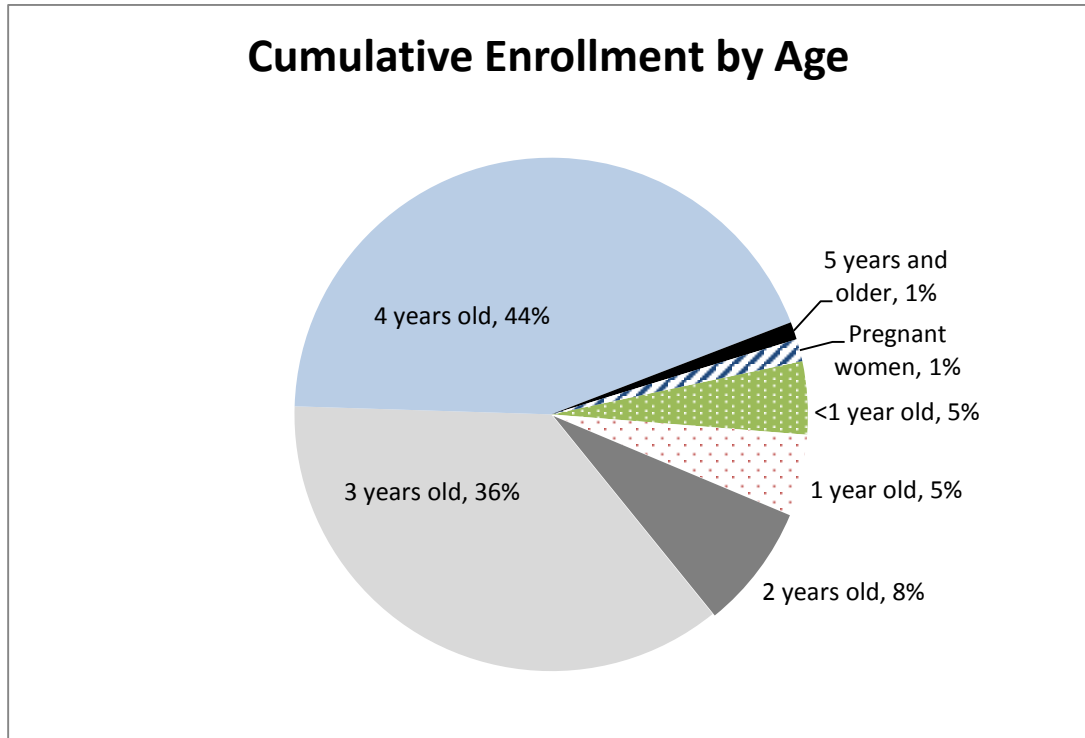


Early Head Start Program Options



Child and Family Demographics

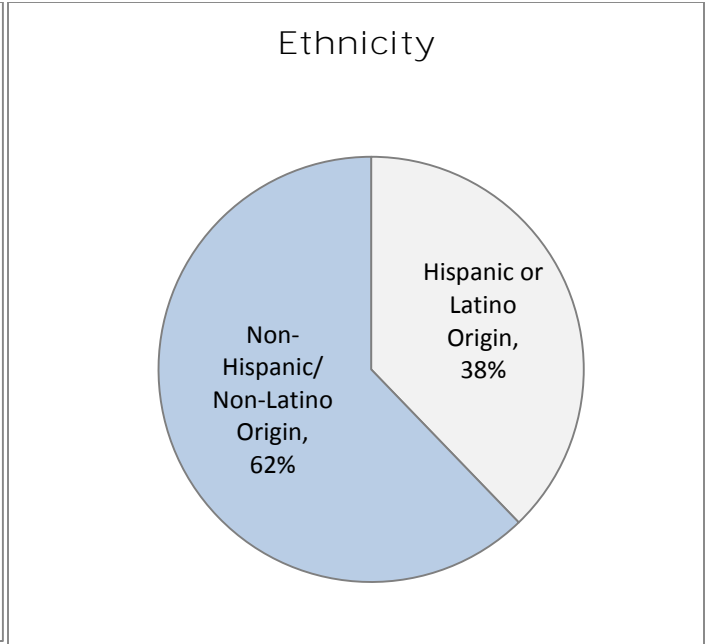
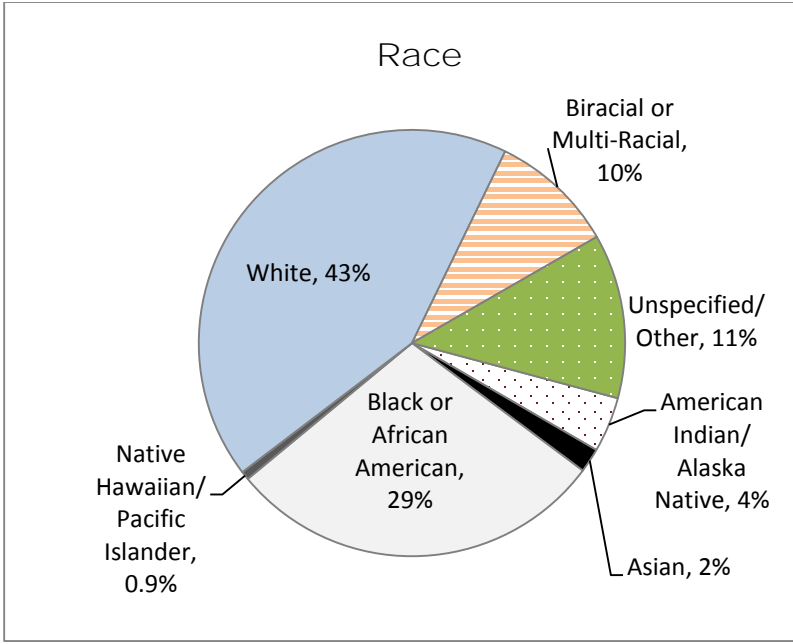
Head Start programs cumulatively served 1,100,000 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women throughout the 2014–15 program year.



Head Start served a diverse group of children, families, and pregnant women. Thirty-eight percent identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, and almost 29 percent were Black/African American.

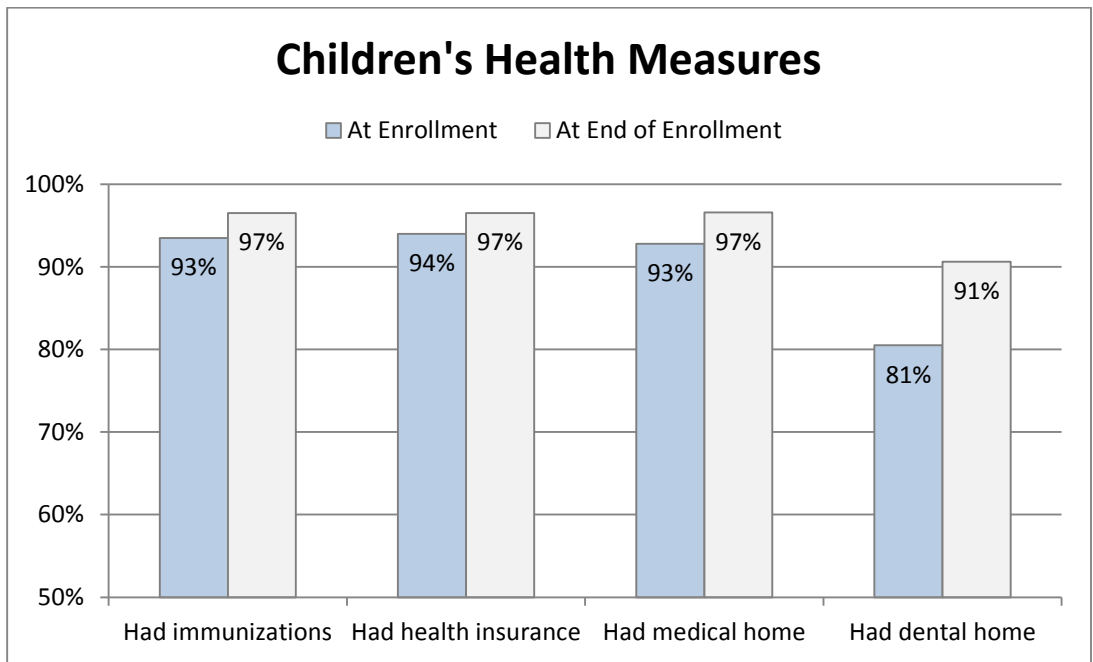
Families were asked to self-identify both an ethnicity and a race category based on U.S. Census Bureau measures. For example, a family that identifies their child as Black and Cuban was counted in the "Black or African American" race category for the race question and counted in the "Hispanic or Latino" category for the separate question on ethnicity.

Twenty-nine percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke a language other than English at home. Nearly 25 percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke Spanish at home.



Services to Children and Families

Head Start programs work with families to help ensure children have access to needed services and resources. The number of children who received immunizations increased from the beginning of the program year to the end of the program year. Also, more families had health insurance and medical and dental homes for their children at the end of the 2014-15 program year than at the beginning.



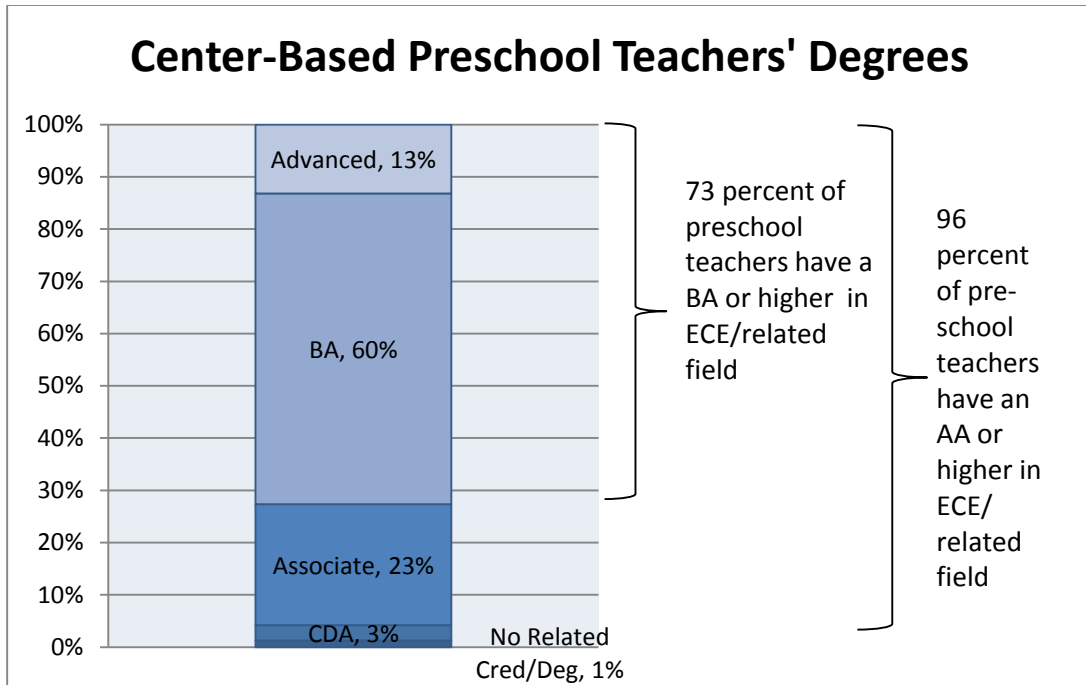
Head Start programs work with families to ensure they have the means to obtain health insurance, services for children with disabilities, adequate housing, job training, and more. In fiscal year (FY) 2015:

- Most children had public health insurance. At the end of the program year, 89 percent of children were enrolled in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or a state-funded child health insurance program.
- Twelve percent of Head Start cumulative enrollment was made up of children with disabilities, defined as children having special plans under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In comparison, nationally, about three percent of infants and toddlers and six percent of preschool-age children have identified disabilities. Head Start serves a greater percentage of children with disabilities than found in the overall population.
- Among pregnant women enrolled in EHS, approximately 90 percent received prenatal education on fetal development and 20 percent had medically high risk pregnancies.
- Head Start served about 1,007,000 families cumulatively throughout the program year. The number of families served is a little less than the number of participants served, since some families have more than one child enrolled.
- Approximately 47,000 families served during the enrollment year experienced homelessness. Of those families, 33 percent found housing during the program year. Nearly 86,000 Head Start families received housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs.
- Approximately 207,000 families, or 21 percent, received services related to job training and adult education such as general education development (GED) programs and college selection.

Program Staff

Head Start programs employed and contracted with 243,000 staff. Parents of current or former Head Start children made up 24 percent of Head Start staff.

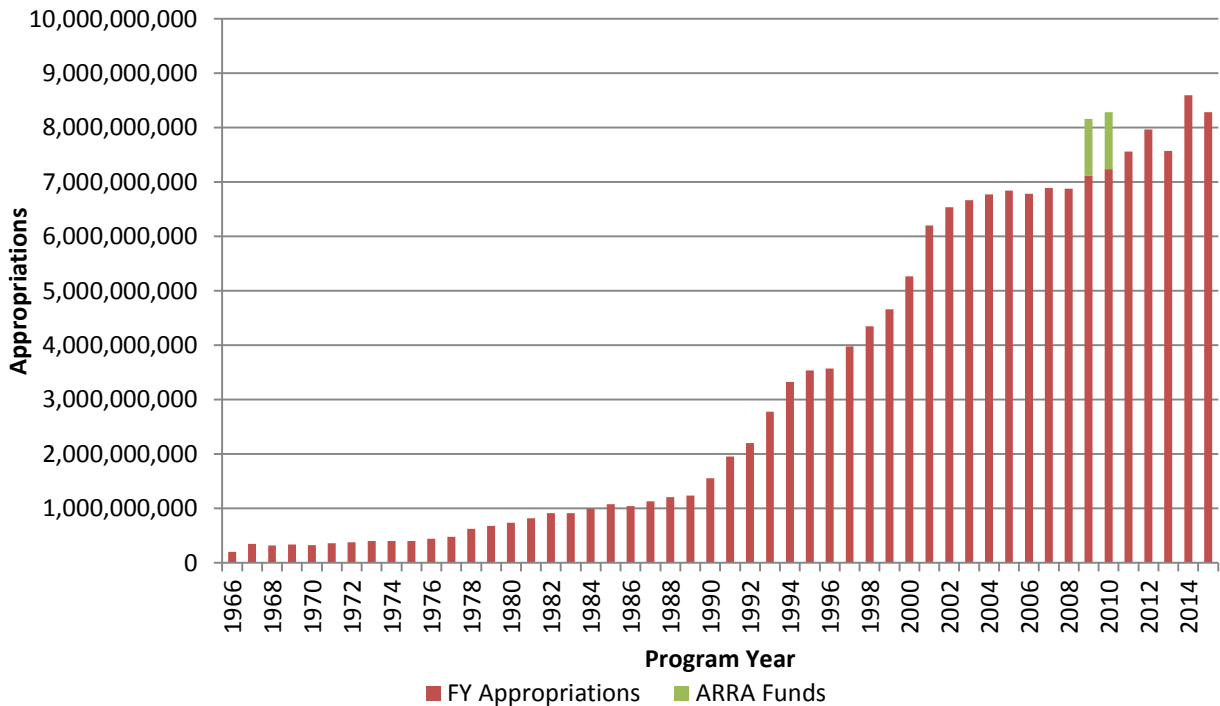
- More than 1.1 million adults volunteered in their local Head Start program. Of these, 782,000 were parents of Head Start children.
- About 120,000 staff members provided child development services to children, including teachers, assistant teachers, home visitors, and family child care providers.
- Among child development staff, 30 percent were proficient in a language other than English.
- Seventy-three percent of all Head Start center-based preschool teachers had a baccalaureate degree or higher in early childhood education, or in a related field with experience. The Head Start Act specifies that 50 percent of center-based preschool teachers nationwide should have had these credentials by 2013.



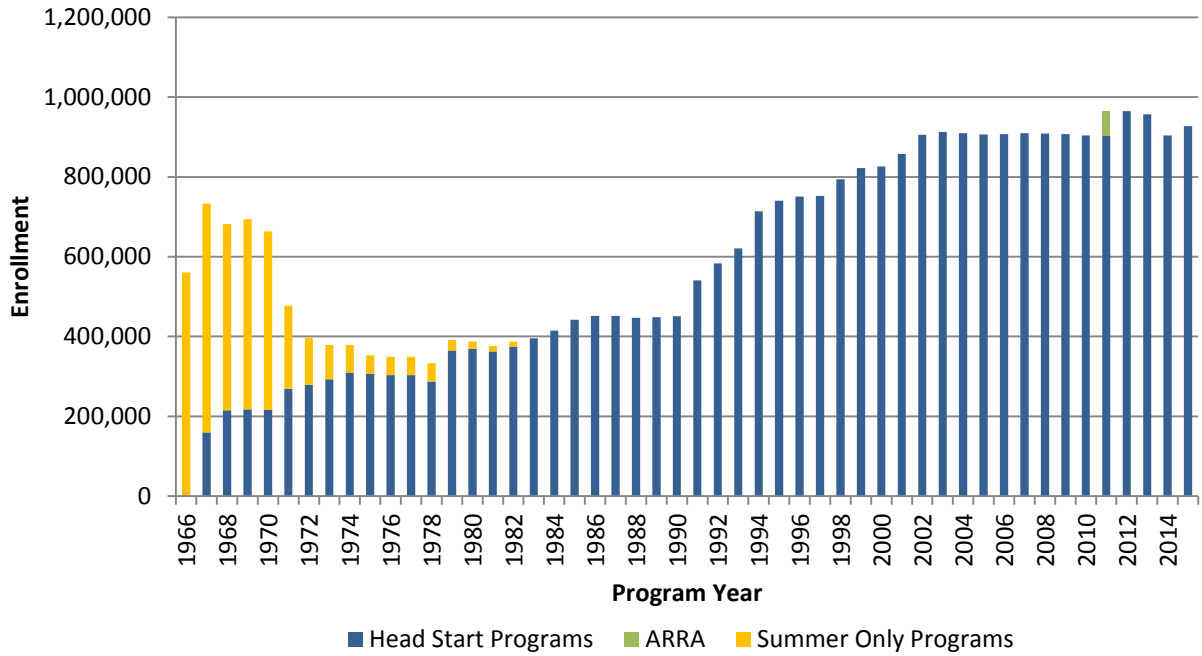
Head Start Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment History

The graphs and tables below depict the last 50 years of Head Start federal funding and funded enrollment history.

50 Years of Head Start Appropriations



50 Years of Head Start Enrollment



Head Start Enrollment and Appropriations History

Year	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment
1965 (summer only)	\$96,400,000	561,000
1966	198,900,000	733,000
1967	349,200,000	681,400
1968	316,200,000	693,900
1969	333,900,000	663,600
1970	325,700,000	477,400
1971	360,000,000	397,500
1972	376,300,000	379,000
1973	400,700,000	379,000
1974	403,900,000	352,800
1975	403,900,000	349,000
1976	441,000,000	349,000
1977	475,000,000	333,000
1978	625,000,000	391,400
1979	680,000,000	387,500
1980	735,000,000	376,300

Year	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment
1981	818,700,000	387,300
1982	911,700,000	395,800
1983	912,000,000	414,950
1984	995,750,000	442,140
1985	1,075,059,000	452,080
1986	1,040,315,000	451,732
1987	1,130,542,000	446,523
1988	1,206,324,000	448,464
1989	1,235,000,000	450,970
1990	1,552,000,000	540,930
1991	1,951,800,000	583,471
1992	2,201,800,000	621,078
1993	2,776,286,000	713,903
1994	3,325,728,000	740,493
1995	3,534,128,000	750,696
1996	3,569,329,000	752,077
1997	3,980,546,000	793,809
1998	4,347,433,000	822,316
1999	4,658,151,000	826,016
2000	5,267,000,000	857,664
2001	6,199,123,000	905,235
2002	6,536,570,000	912,345
2003	6,667,533,000	909,608
2004	6,774,848,000	905,851
2005	6,843,114,000	906,993
2006*	6,782,062,000	909,201
2007	6,888,571,000	908,412
2008	6,877,975,000	906,992
2009	7,112,786,000	904,153
<i>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</i>	<i>2,100,000,000</i>	<i>61,078</i>
2010	7,234,783,000	904,118
2011*	7,559,633,000	964,430
2012	7,968,544,000	956,497
2013	7,573,095,000	903,679
2014	8,598,095,000	927,275
2015	8,285,544,370	944,581